

# MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(10)

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**TO:** Honorable Chairman Jean Monestime  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners


**DATE:** September 16, 2015

**FROM:** R. A. Cuevas, Jr.  
County Attorney

**SUBJECT:** Resolution urging the Florida  
Legislature to pursue federal  
assistance to support farmers  
affected by the recent fruit fly  
infestation in Miami-Dade  
County; further urging the  
legislature to develop a state  
program to assist farmers in  
overcoming similar agricultural  
emergencies

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The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime  
Sponsor Commissioner Dennis C. Moss.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
R. A. Cuevas, Jr.  
County Attorney

RAC/smm



# MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

**TO:** Honorable Chairman Jean Monestime  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

**DATE:** September 16, 2015

**FROM:**   
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County Attorney

**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item No. 11(A)(10)

Please note any items checked.

- ☐ "3-Day Rule" for committees applicable if raised
- ☐ 6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing
- ☐ 4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing
- ☐ Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget
- ☐ Budget required
- ☐ Statement of fiscal impact required
- ☐ Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Mayor's report for public hearing
- ☒ No committee review
- ☐ Applicable legislation requires more than a majority vote (i.e., 2/3's \_\_\_\_\_, 3/5's \_\_\_\_\_, unanimous \_\_\_\_\_) to approve
- ☐ Current information regarding funding source, index code and available balance, and available capacity (if debt is contemplated) required

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Mayor  
Veto \_\_\_\_\_  
Override \_\_\_\_\_

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(10)  
9-16-15

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO  
PURSUE FEDERAL ASSISTANCE TO SUPPORT FARMERS  
AFFECTED BY THE RECENT FRUIT FLY INFESTATION IN  
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY; FURTHER URGING THE  
LEGISLATURE TO DEVELOP A STATE PROGRAM TO  
ASSIST FARMERS IN OVERCOMING SIMILAR  
AGRICULTURAL EMERGENCIES

**WHEREAS**, on September 15, 2015, Florida Commissioner of Agriculture Adam H. Putnam declared a state of agricultural emergency due to the Oriental Fruit Fly infestation in Miami-Dade County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Oriental Fruit Fly is considered one of the most invasive and economically costly pests because it attacks more than 430 different fruits, vegetables, and nuts; and

**WHEREAS**, since the first detection of the Oriental Fruit Fly on August 26, 2015, over 150 flies have been detected in Miami-Dade County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Oriental Fruit Fly threatens Florida's \$123 billion agriculture industry and, locally, Miami-Dade County's \$1.6 billion industry and 11,000 jobs; and

**WHEREAS**, Miami-Dade County is the state's leader in the production of tropical vegetables, fruits, and ornamental nurseries; and

**WHEREAS**, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services ("FDACS") has quarantined an 85-square mile area around the core areas where detections have been made in order to prevent the spread of the fly; and

**WHEREAS**, the FDACS has also treated several areas with pesticides, removed fruit from host trees, and set up fly detection systems throughout Miami-Dade County to monitor the infestation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Oriental Fruit Fly is a threat to agricultural production in the United States more generally, with recent infestations occurring in Hawaii and California; and

**WHEREAS**, assistance from the federal government in any capacity to alleviate the economic damage stemming from an Oriental Fruit Fly infestation will greatly assist both the FDACS and Florida farmers in restoring the health of valued agricultural crops; and

**WHEREAS**, farmers in Florida would benefit from a state operated program designed to provide assistance to them, monetary or otherwise, in similar or future instances of agricultural emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, this Board has always supported measures taken to protect economic interests and development in Miami-Dade County,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA**, that this Board:

**Section 1.** Urges the Florida Legislature to pursue federal assistance to support farmers affected by the recent fruit fly infestation in Miami-Dade County.

**Section 2.** Urges the Florida Legislature to develop a state program to assist farmers in overcoming similar agricultural emergencies in the future.

**Section 3.** Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Governor, Senate President, House Speaker, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Commissioner Adam H. Putnam, and the Chair and Members of the Miami-Dade State Legislative Delegation.

**Section 4.** Directs the County's state lobbyists to advocate for the legislation set forth in Sections 1 and 2 above, and authorizes and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to include this item in the 2016 State Legislative Package when it is presented to the Board.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Dennis C. Moss. It was offered by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_ and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

|                                     |                      |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Jean Monestime, Chairman            |                      |
| Esteban L. Bovo, Jr., Vice Chairman |                      |
| Bruno A. Barreiro                   | Daniella Levine Cava |
| Jose "Pepe" Diaz                    | Audrey M. Edmonson   |
| Sally A. Heyman                     | Barbara J. Jordan    |
| Dennis C. Moss                      | Rebeca Sosa          |
| Sen. Javier D. Souto                | Xavier L. Suarez     |
| Juan C. Zapata                      |                      |

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 16<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2015. This resolution shall become effective upon the earlier of (1) 10 days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the County Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board, or (2) approval by the County Mayor of this Resolution and the filing of this approval with the Clerk of the Board.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
BY ITS BOARD OF  
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as  
to form and legal sufficiency.

Javier Zapata

